

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1837

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide certain Medicare beneficiaries with an exemption to the financial limitations imposed on physical, speech-language pathology, and occupational therapy services under part B of the Medicare Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 1999

Mr. BURR of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MCCREERY, and Mr. PALLONE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide certain Medicare beneficiaries with an exemption to the financial limitations imposed on physical, speech-language pathology, and occupational therapy services under part B of the Medicare Program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Medicare Rehabilita-
5 tion Benefit Improvement Act of 1999".

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

2 The purposes of this Act are as follows:

3 (1) To provide certain medicare beneficiaries
4 with an exemption to the financial limitations im-
5 posed on physical, speech-language pathology, and
6 occupational therapy services under section 1833(g)
7 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(g)).

8 (2) To direct the Secretary of Health and
9 Human Services to conduct a study on the imple-
10 mentation of such exemption and to submit a report
11 to Congress that includes recommendations regard-
12 ing alternatives to such financial limitations.

13 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF EXEMPTION TO CAP ON PHYS-**
14 **ICAL, SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY, AND**
15 **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(g) of the Social Se-
17 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(g)) is amended by adding at
18 the end the following:

19 “(4)(A) The limitations in this subsection shall not
20 apply to an individual described in subparagraph (B).

21 “(B) An individual described in this subparagraph is
22 an individual that meets any of the following criteria:

23 “(i) The individual has received services de-
24 scribed in paragraph (1) or (3) in a calendar year
25 and is subsequently diagnosed with an illness, in-
26 jury, or disability that requires the provision in such

1 year of additional such services that are medically
2 necessary.

3 “(ii) The individual has a diagnosis that re-
4 quires the provision of services described in para-
5 graph (1) or (3) and an additional diagnosis or inci-
6 dent that exacerbates the individual’s condition,
7 thereby requiring the provision of additional such
8 services.

9 “(iii) The individual will require hospitalization
10 if the individual does not receive the services de-
11 scribed in paragraph (1) or (3).

12 “(iv) The individual meets other criteria that
13 the Secretary determines are appropriate.

14 “(C) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as
15 affecting any requirement for, or limitation on, payment
16 under this title (other than the financial limitation under
17 this subsection).

18 “(D) Any service that is covered under this title by
19 reason of this paragraph shall be subject to the same rea-
20 sonable and necessary requirement under section
21 1862(a)(1) that is applicable to the services described in
22 paragraph (1) or (3) that are covered under this title with-
23 out regard to this paragraph.”.

24 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Paragraphs (1)
25 and (3) of section 1833(g) of the Social Security Act (42

1 U.S.C. 1395l(g)) are each amended by striking "In the
2 case" and inserting "Subject to paragraph (4), in the
3 case".

4 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
5 this section shall apply to services provided on or after
6 the date of enactment of this Act.

7 **SEC. 4. STUDY AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

8 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Health and Human
9 Services shall conduct a study on the amendments to sec-
10 tion 1833(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
11 1395l(g)) made by section 3 of this Act, including a study
12 of—

13 (1) the number of medicare beneficiaries that
14 receive exemptions under paragraph (4) of such sec-
15 tion (as added by section 3);

16 (2) the diagnoses of such beneficiaries;

17 (3) the types of physical, speech-language pa-
18 thology, and occupational therapy services that are
19 covered under the medicare program because of such
20 exemptions;

21 (4) the settings in which such services are pro-
22 vided; and

23 (5) the number of medicare beneficiaries that
24 reach the financial limitation under section 1833(g)
25 of the Social Security Act in a year (without regard

1 to the amendments to such section made by section
2 3 of this Act) and subsequently receive physical,
3 speech-language pathology, or occupational therapy
4 services in such year at an outpatient hospital de-
5 partment.

6 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
7 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and
8 Human Services shall submit a detailed report to Congress
9 on the study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1), and
10 shall include in the report recommendations regarding al-
11 ternatives to the financial limitations on physical, speech-
12 language pathology, and occupational therapy services
13 under section 1833(g) of the Social Security Act and any
14 other recommendations determined appropriate by the
15 Secretary. Such report shall be included in the report re-
16 quired to be submitted to Congress pursuant to section
17 4541(d)(2) of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (42
18 U.S.C. 1395l note).

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